

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, “Do Democrats really realize how difficult it has been on working-class Americans to finance ObamaCare?”

This question was asked at a town-hall with a Democratic nominee by an Ohio woman who saw her premium more than double, from \$490 a month to \$1,081 a month. The answer she received? Just keep shopping on the exchange until she finds a better deal.

For the millions of Americans who continue to see their costs skyrocket, this is not an acceptable answer. From losing coverage, soaring premiums, and excess regulations, this system is simply unsustainable.

Rather than propping up a failing system with temporary, costly fixes, let's replace it with the patient-centered policies that actually work. That is what Republicans are proposing to do. One with more choices, not mandates, one that increases flexibility in coverage, spurs competition so rates will go down and not up, and puts doctors and patients, not D.C. bureaucrats, back in charge of healthcare decisions.

These are just some of the commonsense ideas Republicans are advancing, and they really do represent a better way for people's choices.

ObamaCare has not, is not, and will not work. Let's start giving people more choices and the answers they deserve.

KEEP AMERICANS SAFE FROM GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I urge Speaker RYAN to bring commonsense gun violence prevention legislation to the floor this week.

Justice will never be served for the victims of Tucson, Aurora, Newtown, Charleston, San Bernardino, and Orlando as long as this body refuses to act and once again accepts the status quo.

I support the Second Amendment and the right of Americans to own firearms, but I believe it is the responsibility of this body to ensure effective laws are in place to keep all Americans safe from gun violence. Congress did nothing after 20 children were fatally shot in Newtown in 2012, and nothing following what happened in Orlando, where 49 innocent people were murdered.

Congress must pass legislation that will require comprehensive background checks and close the gun show loophole. That is why I am a cosponsor of the Thompson-King legislation. We must make progress in gun safety and mental health awareness and support gun safety lock laws.

PRAYERS FOR BEN CRAIG

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ben Craig, a longtime community leader in Overland Park, in my district, who is, sadly, battling liver cancer. Ben is known around town as the “Grandfather of Overland Park” and “Mr. Johnson County.”

As a founder of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, he helped develop and expand Johnson County Community College, a crown jewel in the metro area. As a member of our Rotary Club, Ben has set the bar pretty high, with 52 years of perfect attendance.

Ben truly embodies our Rotary motto “service above self.” Whether it was raising money for the college, Harvesters, or for one of my family's favorite destinations and landmarks in Overland Park, the Deanna Rose Children's Farmstead, he encourages others to step up and be part of our community and to give back.

I consider Ben a mentor and friend, and I am grateful to know him. His impact will be felt for generations.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saying a prayer for Ben and his family in these hard times as he fights against this horrible disease.

VOTE ON COMMONSENSE LEGISLATION

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, my home State of Massachusetts has enacted some of the most comprehensive gun violence prevention laws in the Nation, including universal background checks.

Thanks to these commonsense reforms, Massachusetts has one of the lowest rates of gun deaths in the Nation. Nevertheless, lax gun laws in other States make us a net importer of firearms, and we are certainly not immune from the tragic impacts of gun violence.

Americans have a right to be free from violence in our own communities, in our homes, in our schools, in our churches, and in our workplace. But it is clear that the States cannot do it alone. Congress must do more to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, domestic abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill. You can't know if someone falls into one of these categories without a background check.

Mr. Speaker, our constituents sent us here to cast a vote on their behalf, and that is what we should be doing. Let us have a vote on commonsense, bipartisan legislation that allows background checks for all gun sales.

WHERE THERE IS HELP, THERE IS HOPE

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, today, there are over 11 million Americans struggling without proper treatment and care for mental health illnesses.

Our system is riddled with inefficiencies, as various agencies patch together different programs with little to no coordination. Because of this massive failure, patients far too often end up in the criminal justice system or on the streets, because the services are just not available.

This week, Congress took decisive action to fix this problem by passing a bill that I helped introduce with Representative TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, 422-2. Our bill will genuinely save lives and improve the quality of life for families all across this Nation.

The bipartisan Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act is a perfect example of what we can accomplish when we set aside partisan differences and get to work for the people that we represent. This bill prioritizes treatment to proactively prevent tragedy, emphasizing programs and resources that focus on getting patients the care they need.

In short, Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan bill takes mental illness out of the shadows of ignorance, because we know that where there is help, there is hope.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, I joined my colleagues in an historic sit-in on the House floor, demanding action on gun violence in the wake of yet another mass shooting. Since then, I have heard from hundreds of Rhode Islanders who, like over 80 percent of Americans and a high percentage of gun owners themselves, support our efforts for commonsense legislation to keep guns out of the wrong hands and to address this public health crisis.

Frustratingly, sadly, and inconceivably, Republican leaders in this Chamber continue to ignore the demands of the American people and, most especially and sadly, continue to ignore the pleas of so many victims of gun violence and their families.

Republicans trot out old, tired arguments, saying that we oppose the Second Amendment, that we oppose due process, that backgrounds checks are ineffective. Mr. Speaker, these assertions are simply not true. But rather than allow an open debate and a vote, Republicans continue to follow the playbook of the gun lobby.

But, Mr. Speaker, we will not allow silence to fill that void of leadership.

Until the House acts on meaningful gun violence prevention legislation, my colleagues and I will continue to speak for Americans who demand action. We will be silent no more.

□ 1230

MICHELLE KELLY-LOVE WAS NOT JUST A NUMBER

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, this is a photo of my former coworker, Michelle Kelly-Love. Michelle and I worked together at the same company in Los Angeles in the early nineties, and she was kind and funny and warmhearted, a person who was very generous, and a dear friend of mine.

On February 27 of this year, Michelle was dropping off her son, Jordan, at his home in a quiet neighborhood in Carson, California. They were parked in her car in front of the house when they were attacked by a drive-by shooter. Both Michelle and her son were struck multiple times and died at the scene. Michelle's mother, the grandmother of Jordan, was in the back seat and survived.

Michelle's funeral was one of the saddest I have ever attended. She and her son were taken from us so randomly and so suddenly.

You have heard a lot of numbers and statistics related to gun deaths, but Michelle was not just a number. She was friend and a mother and had a long life ahead of her. Her 27-year old son was not just a number.

We cannot stand by and do nothing as our friends and neighbors continue to die. We have lost too many lives to gun violence. The time for action is now. Please.

GUN VIOLENCE LEGISLATION

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I also rise on behalf of the families who have lost loved ones to gun violence, including in my very own district in Isla Vista, California, on May 23, 2014. That horrific act killed 6 and injured 14—young people full of life and promise: Katherine Cooper, Veronica Weiss, Christopher Martinez, Cheng Yuan Hong, George Chen, and Weihang Wang.

When these lives were tragically cut short, our community banded together to say “Not One More” life should be lost due to gun violence. But that message has fallen on deaf ears with the leadership of this House, resulting in countless Americans wondering each day if their community will be next. This is simply unacceptable. We cannot delay action any longer.

Mr. Speaker, this House must vote on a bill to address the gun violence epidemic in our country. Americans de-

serve a bill that will truly make our country safer, and they deserve a bill that seeks to ensure “Not One More” can become a reality.

BIPARTISAN, COMMONSENSE LAWS TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. PINGREE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago I joined with many of my colleagues here on the House floor to demand a debate on commonsense gun legislation to increase background checks and keep terrorists from buying guns.

Despite the fact that the microphones and C-SPAN cameras were turned off, the discussion we held over the next 24 hours was seen and heard by millions of Americans. It was seen and heard because my colleagues and I took out our smartphones, and we took photos and streamed video, and we tweeted. We posted to Facebook and we broadcast on Periscope.

We call this Chamber “the people's House.” In the time that I have been serving here, there has never been a moment that has felt more like the people's House than that 25 hours. Yet now we hear that some are calling for us to be punished for bringing that debate and discussion to the American people. It is “behavior unbecoming” of the House of Representatives, they say.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of what my colleagues and I did, and if that is what it takes to get us a vote on bipartisan, commonsense laws to prevent gun violence, I hope we will do it again.

GUNS AND OUR PRIORITIES

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, there is something seriously wrong with the priorities in Congress. Time and time again, this body is choosing to put political posturing above the interests, safety, and well-being of the American people.

Earlier today, I attended an Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing that was termed an emergency because the committee Republicans did not approve of a decision by career officials at the FBI and Justice Department to end the email case involving Secretary Clinton. In this hyper-partisan era, that counts as an emergency.

But the continuing plague of gun violence, one that takes over 32,000 innocent lives a year, has been, once again, put on the back burner. There is no sense of urgency. No bill, no vote.

Mr. Speaker, this is no way to take care of the American people's interests.

GUN SAFETY

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, “Teen killed in shooting that led to crash near ER in Charlotte.”

“Man shot and killed in uptown Charlotte.”

“Man found shot to death in Thomasville July 4th.”

“Man shot in Freeman Mills Shopping Center.”

“Shooting outside Florida Street Grocery Store in Greensboro.”

“Winston-Salem woman caught in crossfire.”

The media and my Republican colleagues have focused attention on which words we have used instead of the need to define the terms. As a former educator, let me define the word “epidemic.”

Webster defines it as something “affecting a disproportionately large number of individuals within a population, a community, or a region at the same time.”

The headlines I cited earlier define the term “gun violence epidemic,” an epidemic faced in my home State of North Carolina and across this country, an epidemic so vast that it took the life of Kevin Rodas, a 7-year old boy shot while playing in the front yard of his Charlotte home.

Let's cure these epidemics. Pass sensible, bipartisan gun safety legislation to prevent future acts of gun violence like Orlando or the one that took little Kevin's life back in my district.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 7, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 7, 2016 at 11:56 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 38.
With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 524, COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2016; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 809 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 809

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (S. 524) to authorize the Attorney General to